**CONVENTION FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE**

**Twelfth session**

**Jeju Island, Republic of Korea**

**4 to 9 December 2017**

**Item 5.b of the Provisional Agenda:**

**Report by the Secretariat on its activities**

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| **Summary**  The present document provides an overview of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017.  **Decision required:** paragraph 29 |

**I. Introduction**

1. The present report concerns the activities of the Secretariat from January 2016 to June 2017. In continuation of the change implemented last year, the reporting period is aligned with other statutory reporting processes within UNESCO, in particular with the Director-General’s reports to the Executive Board on the execution of the programme adopted by the General Conference (202 EX/4). It is therefore cumulative with the report by the Secretariat provided to the eleventh session of the Committee, which covered the first six months of 2016. This document should be read in tandem with the financial statement regarding the Convention’s Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, included in document [ITH/17/12.COM/7](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-7-EN.docx) as well as in document [202 EX/4](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0025/002573/257377e.pdf).
2. The report seeks to reflect the extent of the Secretariat’s work based on the 38 C/5 results framework and, more specifically, the performance indicators of Expected Result 5 within Major Programme IV: *National capacities strengthened and utilised to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage, including indigenous and endangered languages, through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention*. It also takes into account the results framework that was approved by the Bureau of the Committee of the 2003 Convention concerning the Secretariat’s utilization of the funds made available from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for ‘Other Functions of the Committee’ for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2017 ([Decision 11.COM 2.BUR 1](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-11.COM_2.BUR-Decisions-EN.docx)). This presents a more specific framework for extrabudgetary funds devoted to assisting the Committee in fulfilling its mission. The latest detailed report on the implementation of that spending plan for the ‘Other Functions of the Committee’ was made to the Bureau of the Committee in May 2017, covering the year 2016. This is available in document [ITH/17/12.COM 2.BUR/INF.3](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM_2.BUR-INF.3-EN.doc).
3. The present document presents an overall strategic assessment of the programme implementation, focusing on the key achievements and overall challenges encountered during the implementation. A detailed table presenting an assessment of progress against targets can be found in the Annex of this document, for the five performance indicators as approved and adopted within the Organization’s Programme and Budget 2016–2017 by the General Conference at its 38th session ([document 38 C/5 Approved programme and budget, 2016-2017: second biennium of the 2014-2017 quadrennium](http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002443/244305e.pdf)).
4. As per Article 10 of the Convention and since 2014, the Section has been composed of two units, a Programme Implementation Unit and a Capacity-building and Heritage Policy Unit. Regional responsibilities are distributed across the two units, with ‘regional officers’ for each of the six electoral groups of UNESCO. The tasks assigned to these Units are described in the Secretariat’s report to the tenth session of the Committee (document [ITH/15/10.COM/7.b](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-15-10.COM-7.b_EN.docx)) and to the sixth session of the General Assembly (document [ITH/16/6.GA/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-16-6.GA-6-EN.docx)) and have remained unchanged under the reporting period. The Conventions Common Services Unit, established in mid-2014 (see document [ITH/14/9.COM/6](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/doc/src/ITH-14-9.COM-6-EN_.doc)), continues to assist the Section in the organization of statutory meetings, as also described in the two aforementioned reports.

**II. Key achievements**

**Statutory support**

1. An important portion of the Secretariat’s work has been dedicated to support for the governance of the Convention, in particular: (i) the organization of meetings of the General Assembly, the Intergovernmental Committee and its Bureau as well as the Evaluation Body and an open-ended intergovernmental meeting; (ii) the treatment of nominations to the two Lists of the Convention, proposals to the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices, International Assistance (IA) requests and periodic reports submitted through statutory mechanisms; and (iii) requests for accreditation and renewal from non-governmental organizations.
2. The Secretariat facilitated the work of the governing bodies in taking a set of key decisions in the course of no fewer than fifteen statutory meetings organized under the reporting period. Among such meetings, the sixth session of the General Assembly held in May/June 2016 constituted a major landmark. The Assembly adopted substantial revisions to the Operational Directives for the implementation of the Convention, including the increase of the ceiling for IA requests to be submitted to the Bureau of the Committee from US$25,000 to US$100,000, the adoption of a new chapter on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development, and the extension of the referral option (which had been used for the Representative List only) to all mechanisms of the Convention. The Secretariat also supported the preparation and deliberation of the eleventh session of the Committee, which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November/December 2016. A draft report on the Committee’s activities from January 2016 to December 2017, which is presented at the present session, includes a summary of the decisions and debates of the Committee on that occasion (document [ITH/17/12.COM/5.a](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-5.a-EN.docx)). The reporting period also coincided with the intense preparation for and convening of an open-ended intergovernmental working group on developing an overall results framework for the Convention – see below for more information;
3. The treatment of the nominations, proposals and requests for the 2017 cycle and that of the 2018 cycle is on schedule. The Secretariat has also processed the fifty accreditation requests received from non-governmental organizations and has reviewed forty-four reports submitted by accredited non-governmental organizations in view of their renewal. Recommendations for accreditation and for maintaining of their accreditation are presented to the Committee at the present session (document [ITH/17/12.COM/17](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-17-EN.docx)). Following the request by the Committee at its tenth session in 2015 ([Decision 10.COM 10](https://ich.unesco.org/en/decisions/10.COM/10)), the Secretariat also prepared some guidelines on inventories for States Parties, which are being made available through the Convention’s website at the time of writing.
4. In terms of ratification, between January 2016 and June 2017 the Convention witnessed a steady increase in the number of States Parties, with the following Member States ratifying the Convention: Cabo Verde, Cook Islands, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malta, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu. Moreover, an extension of the territorial application of the Convention was made by the Netherlands for Curaçao. At the time of writing, the total number of States Parties has reached 175. Five of the new States Parties and Curaçao benefitted from capacity-building activities before ratifying the Convention.

**Intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development**

1. The adoption of the new chapter of the Operational Directives on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level marks an important step forward in the development of the Convention, which is in harmony with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 by the UN General Assembly. The Secretariat has made considerable efforts to reflect this orientation in a number of thematic areas and to identify programmatic entry points with specific indicators of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, with particular focus on Goal 4 concerning education in general and on Targets 4.3, 4.4 and 4.7 in particular. Contributions were also made by the Secretariat to the Culture sector’s activities seeking to measure culture’s contribution in the 2030 Agenda. The Secretariat has also been working on case studies in order to practically illustrate the links between safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level, notably in the context of the capacity-building programme.

**International assistance (IA)**

1. The increase in the ceiling for IA requests, up to US$100,000, which is the maximum amount that can be examined by the Bureau and not the Committee, has already proven to be an important step forward, giving States Parties easier access to IA. States Parties are increasingly submitting requests amounting to more than US$25,000 but less than US$100,000 (this rose from 19% of requests submitted in 2014/2015 to 73% in 2016 and up to June 2017). At the same time, the Secretariat has adapted the working methods for processing IA requests up to US$100,000, for example by scheduling at least three meetings of the Bureau per year (in March, June and October) and by advising the submitting States to take into account the deadlines related to these meetings. There has been a promising increase in the number of IA requests examined by the Bureau under the reporting period (ten requests in 2016 and nine in the first six months of 2017) compared to 2014 (three requests). It is expected that the raised ceiling will continue to contribute to reversing the persistent trend of under-utilization of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.
2. States Parties increasingly take advantage of technical assistance arranged by the Secretariat, which aims to improve the quality of their IA requests. Four countries received such assistance during the reporting period. The Secretariat has also developed specific training materials on developing IA requests, which are available online for capacity-building activities on this topic. It is important to note that while they do help to increase the number of IA requests, these endeavours entail a significantly heavier workload for the Secretariat. At this stage, the Secretariat’s capacities do not allow it to undertake more than a mere administrative follow-up, leaving aside a substantial monitoring and analytical review of the results and impact of IA. More detailed information can be found in document [ITH/17/12.COM/8.a](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-8.a-EN.docx).

**Knowledge management**

1. Knowledge management services provided by the Secretariat continue to play a key role in facilitating the statutory processes that are core to the Convention’s good governance. They were also central in ensuring the improved visibility of a wide range of initiatives carried out around the world under the auspices of the Convention. There were 3,200,000 page views in 2016, which corresponds to an increase of almost 50% compared to the previous year. The website of the Convention is also a much-needed repository of a large amount of information about the Convention. To this end, the Convention’s website has been enhanced with a secured and shorter URL (<https://ich.unesco.org/>), improved navigation and ergonomics, an optimized search engine and additional multilingual content. Moreover, a monitoring interface has been developed for periodic reports (see paragraph 13 below). Substantial preparatory work was also undertaken for the development of the interface for reporting and monitoring capacity-building activities.

**PERIODIC REPORTING**

1. In order to improve the participation of States Parties in the periodic reporting mechanism, the Secretariat initiated a number of actions. These include the development of a [monitoring interface for periodic reports](https://ich.unesco.org/en/submissions-and-deadlines-00861) on the Convention website, an information and awareness-raising session on this mechanism during the sixth session of the General Assembly in 2016, the updating of the guidance provided in the aide-mémoire for completing the reporting form and the customary reminder letters sent to all States with overdue reports. Such efforts seem to have borne fruit, albeit in a modest way: 14 reports have been submitted under Form ICH-11, out of 15 which were due, and 25% of the periodic reports due under Form ICH-10 have been submitted in 2017, against 16% in 2016. The generous contribution by the Republic of Korea to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund received during the reporting period will allow the Secretariat to further improve the periodic reporting mechanism, including the online submission tool and the revision of the form that takes into account the overall results framework of the Convention (more detailed information can be found in document [ITH/17/12.COM/10](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-10-EN.docx)).

**overall results framework**

1. Despite the growing importance that different stakeholders attribute to the Convention, no reliable conclusions can be drawn about its progress and impact in the absence of a shared monitoring and evaluation framework. The Secretariat initiated reflections on the development of an overall results framework for the Convention with a preliminary expert meeting in 2016, thanks to the generous contribution of the National Commission of the People’s Republic of China. The first results map developed by the experts was welcomed by the Committee at its eleventh session and this served as a basis for the open-ended intergovernmental working group, generously hosted in June 2017 by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in Chengdu. With the participation of fifty-three States Parties, the working group reached a consensus on a set of indicators for effectively monitoring the outputs, and assessing the outcomes and impacts of the Convention. The framework also includes indicators to monitor the implementation of the capacity-building programme. The working group also recommended that the results framework serve as a basis for reviewing the periodic reporting mechanism. The draft overall results framework adopted by the working group is being presented to the Committee for adoption at the present session (document [ITH/17/12.COM/9](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-9-EN.docx)).

**category 2 centres**

1. To support the category 2 centres, two annual coordination meetings were organized (in June 2016 at UNESCO Headquarters and in September 2017 in Shiraz, Iran; the latter generously hosted by the Regional Research Centre for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in West and Central Asia) as has been the custom since 2013. These annual meetings provided a good opportunity to exchange information on recent developments in the life of the Convention and to discuss new perspectives for fields of cooperation and future synergies amongst the centres as well as between UNESCO and the centres. During the reporting period, the Secretariat also continued working on the evaluation and renewal process of six category 2 centres in the field of intangible cultural heritage.

**capacity building**

1. During the reporting period, capacity building for the implementation of the Convention at the national level remained a high priority for the Secretariat and Member States. Activities were initiated or implemented through UNESCO Field Offices with backstopping from Headquarters in more than seventy countries over the last three years, covering all regions of the world. Africa received particular attention in this regard, with twenty-eight beneficiary countries.
2. Some countries benefitted from multi-year projects based on the [global UNESCO capacity-building programme for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/capacity-building) with the support of extrabudgetary resources channelled either through Funds-in-Trust Agreements (thanks to Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Flanders-Belgium and Azerbaijan) and earmarked contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund (thanks to Norway and Spain – including the Government of Catalonia). More information is available on the Convention’s [project webpage](https://ich.unesco.org/en/project). Two of the multi-country projects, one in Portuguese-speaking Africa and the other in the Asia and the Pacific region, were evaluated. The results of these evaluations highlighted, amongst a broader set of recommendations and lessons learnt, the importance for benefitting countries of developing a national mechanism to continue undertaking training activities once the international support has ended.
3. Other activities, namely needs assessments, policy support and training workshops, were financed with the Regular Programme decentralised to Field Offices or with matching funds from national authorities or category 2 centres. One of the main achievements is the completion of in-depth needs assessments in fifteen countries. These projects generally show that significant progress has been made in the areas of mobilizing stakeholders, strengthening the institutional infrastructure required for safeguarding (i.e. dedicated departments and consultative bodies), developing community-based inventorying frameworks and collaboration among the project countries. However, they also brought to the fore that more support is required to strengthen capacities in the areas of preparing safeguarding plans and developing policies and legislation across multiple sectors in the context of national development strategies.
4. The implementation of the capacity-building strategy is supported by the global network of facilitators, who deliver training and advisory services upon request to the beneficiary countries. During the reporting period, the Secretariat organized five regional workshops for facilitators (thanks to the support of different host institutions in Bulgaria, Kyrgyzstan and Peru) to assess the lessons learnt from delivering capacity-building services, update their knowledge on recent developments in the life of the Convention and familiarize with curriculum materials recently developed by the Secretariat in relation to safeguarding plans, gender and policy advice. Furthermore, the Secretariat organized, in March 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand, a strategy workshop with facilitators from all regions, entitled ‘Envisioning the future of the global capacity-building programme and its facilitators’ network’. The purpose of the workshop was to take stock and reflect on the experiences and lessons learnt during the six years of implementing the capacity-building programme and the meeting highlighted several new strategic directions for the network and for the delivery of the programme at the country level. On this basis, the Secretariat has submitted to the Committee, for approval at the present session, an updated programme document on strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and contributing to sustainable development for 2018-2021 in document [ITH/17/12.COM/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-6-EN.docx).

**Intangible cultural heritage and education**

1. In order to give due attention to Articles 2.3 and 14 of the Convention, the Secretariat made a conscious effort to develop partnerships with education institutions to support the implementation of a safeguarding measure mentioned in the Convention. Following a round-table discussion organized with UNESCO’s International Capacity-Building Institute for Education in Africa (IICBA) at the eleventh session of the Committee, an intersectoral meeting was convened at the Headquarters in May 2017 with the Education Sector and representatives of UNESCO’s Category 1 Centres specializing in the field of education. The meeting resulted in a shared understanding on the interface between intangible cultural heritage and education and on how integrating intangible cultural heritage into education for all age groups and situations can contribute towards achieving SDG Goal 4 on quality education. As part of the future work to be carried out in partnerships with the Education Sector, the Secretariat proposes a second funding priority, in addition to the continuation of the capacity-building programme, for the coming years. A programme document in this regard is submitted to the present session of the Committee for approval in document [ITH/17/12.COM/6](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-6-EN.docx).
2. Tertiary education institutions play a key role in developing future administrators and decision-makers for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. Yet, specialization in the field of intangible cultural heritage is currently dispersed across different disciplines. The Secretariat has continued to build partnerships with universities in order to gain knowledge on how to integrate intangible cultural heritage into tertiary education programmes and support networking in this field. The UNESCO Bangkok Office in Asia and the Pacific carried out a survey, supported by the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), to this end. A second survey has been initiated in Latin America and the Caribbean by UNESCO Montevideo, with funding from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund allocated for ‘other functions of the Committee’. The Secretariat has been accompanying the European Network of Cultural Administration Training Centres (ENCATC) in carrying out a similar survey in Europe, with funding from UNESCO’s Participation Programme.

**Intangible cultural heritage in EMERGENCIES**

1. The Secretariat has been increasingly solicited to contribute to UNESCO’s global response to situations of emergency, which is framed largely by the Strategy that the 38th session of UNESCO’s General Conference adopted in 2015 to reinforce UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict. Following the encouragement by the Committee at its eleventh session ([Decision 11.COM 15](https://ich.unesco.org/en/Decisions/11.COM/15)), the Secretariat initiated a reflection on the role communities play in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage at risk in situations of emergency and how it can be mobilized as a tool for preparedness, resilience and reconciliation. In particular, a pilot survey and a desk study were conducted in order to achieve a better understanding of the changing role and function of living heritage in the context of displacements and natural disasters. The Secretariat has also continued to support the preparation and implementation of the emergency International Assistance requests in Côte d’Ivoire, Mali, Niger and Vanuatu, as described in more detail in document [ITH/17/12.COM/15](https://ich.unesco.org/doc/src/ITH-17-12.COM-15-EN.docx).

**outreach and communications strategy**

1. Designing a robust outreach and communications strategy is essential for promoting the objectives of the Convention. During the reporting period, the Secretariat identified a partner company through a rigorous selection process, with which the development of a communications and outreach strategy is being undertaken. The strategy is directed at helping various stakeholders to enhance knowledge of intangible cultural heritage and its safeguarding, raising awareness about its importance and ensuring mutual appreciation thereof, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Convention. As part of the process of developing the strategy, fifty stakeholders, including State Parties, donors, accredited NGOs, national institutions, heritage professionals and community members were interviewed with a view to gain insights on what the 2003 Convention means for various stakeholders. This was followed by a benchmark meeting held in March 2017 to review the results and the production of a qualitative audit synthesis report. Based on this report, the strategy is being finalized.

**III. Key challenges and ways forward**

1. The core activities of the Secretariat have continued to be concentrated around two axes: (i) support for the governance of the Convention, in particular the organization of a high number of statutory meetings, and the treatment of nominations, requests and reports submitted through the statutory mechanisms; and (ii) the sustained implementation of the capacity-building strategy with an enhanced geographical reach and greater involvement of various and new partners. For the former, a series of adjustments have been made to improve the working methods, as described in this document. This has allowed the Secretariat to respond to a high volume of complex statutory tasks in a timely manner. Regarding the latter, strengthening capacities to safeguard intangible cultural heritage in over seventy countries is a substantial achievement in itself. Having completed the sixth year of implementation, the Section has undertaken activities to evaluate its relevance and identified the strategic ways forward.
2. Three main challenges can be identified in the current work of the Secretariat. One is the persistent low implementation of International Assistance under the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund. Conscious of the urgent need to ensure easier access for States Parties to this resource, the Secretariat has addressed this issue through creative solutions, as mentioned earlier in this document. New remedial actions are also being presented at the present session of the Committee. The other challenge concerns the implementation of the capacity-building strategy, as the demands still exceed the delivery capacity. Since a large part (65%) of the Regular Programme budget of the biennium for the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section is dedicated to covering the costs of the statutory requirements of the Convention, the Secretariat’s resource mobilization efforts have been concentrated essentially on extending the reach and effectiveness of the global capacity-building strategy. This situation is highly critical and the Secretariat hereby renews its earnest call to urge potential donors to contribute to the 2003 Convention. Another challenge relates to outreach and communication, which is crucial not only for enhancing the recognition of the importance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage but also as a safeguarding measure in its own right. The Secretariat has taken a new initiative to develop strategies to be able to better advocate for the objectives and development of the Convention and to mobilize financial support in the long run.
3. The life of the Convention is not static but it grows continuously, in response to the needs of the international community; the work of the Secretariat in turn evolves around such developments. In the beginning, a great deal of effort was put in to encourage ratifications in order to obtain international support for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage, a new concept at the time. The next step was to establish procedures by drafting the Operational Directives and gain experience with the Lists and other mechanisms; the latter part of this phase also coincided with the development of the capacity-building strategy, driven by the Secretariat. Having celebrated the tenth anniversary of its entry into force in 2016, the Convention now finds itself in the beginning of yet another stage, which calls for a systematic and broad stock taking of the impact of the Convention at various levels. In this sense, the development of an overall results framework for the Convention is an ambitious undertaking that would prompt a series of reflections, for example on the meaning and future of the Lists, the effectiveness of safeguarding efforts and the participation of various actors in the Convention.
4. The Secretariat continues to aim to ensure that the Convention makes a meaningful contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, this is all the more so in the near future as the next Programme and Budget of UNESCO (39 C/5) will include specific attention to the issue. The operationalization of the new chapter on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level has become an important area of intervention by the Secretariat. A case in point is the Secretariat’s recent activities in the field of intangible cultural heritage and education. While schools and non-formal education programmes can play an important role in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, its integration into education programmes can be key for improving the relevance and quality of education. The reflection that the Secretariat could initiate on intangible cultural heritage in emergencies is another example of the relevance of the Convention in the current international context, and also for communities for whom intangible cultural heritage could be an important source of preparedness, resilience and recovery.
5. As has been the case before, the situation concerning the human resources of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Section remains a major challenge. In addition to the Regular Programme staff, the Section has to rely on a number of persons working under various temporary assignments even to assume the core functions of the Secretariat. The situation has worsened over the years in light of the persisting financial constraints faced by UNESCO, with the depletion of the sub-fund for enhancing the human capacities within the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund and the ever-increasing workload reflected by the quasi-universal ratification rate. If the Secretariat is to respond to the ambitions and wishes of the Committee for broad reflections to be initiated on a number of issues to review the impact of the Convention and to ponder on future directions, strategic solutions and sustained support from State Parties to the human resource requirements of the Secretariat must be sought.
6. The Committee may wish to adopt the following decision:

DRAFT DECISION 12.COM 5.b

The Committee,

1. Having examined document ITH/17/12.COM/5.b,
2. Welcomes the ten States – Cabo Verde, Cook Islands, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malta, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu – that have ratified the Convention during the reporting period, as well as the extension of the territorial application of the Convention made by the Netherlands for Curaçao, and expresses satisfaction with the sustained pace of ratification;
3. Commends the Secretariat for the considerable and timely support provided for the sound governance of the Convention and for the management of various mechanisms under the Convention, acknowledging the high level of resources it requires;
4. Further commends the Secretariat for the efforts put in place to support the International Assistance mechanism, while taking note of the additional workload this entails;
5. Appreciates the efforts made by the Secretariat to reinforce the national capacities of States Parties to safeguard intangible cultural heritage through the capacity-building programme and welcomes the strategic reflection undertaken on the future development of the programme and its network;
6. Further appreciates the endeavours to demonstrate and operationalize the contribution of intangible cultural heritage to sustainable development and peace and requests the Secretariat to pursue its efforts in this regard towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;
7. Welcomes the progress made in building partnerships with relevant UNESCO education programmes and institutes to promote transmission through formal and non-formal education programmes;
8. Further welcomes the development of a communication and outreach strategy with a view to enhancing the understanding and visibility of the Convention, and encourages the Secretariat to work on a roll-out plan for its implementation;
9. Expresses concern regarding the alarming decline of extra-budgetary support for the implementation of the capacity-building programme, despite the strong demand from countries who have not yet benefitted and continued requests from countries whose needs have only been partially met;
10. Further expresses deep concern regarding the growing disparity between the increased workload of the Secretariat and the human resources available;
11. Calls on States Parties to offer further support, particularly in the form of earmarked contributions to the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund for operational projects and contributions to the sub-fund for enhancing the human resources of the Secretariat in order to allow it to address the ongoing demands for the continued effective governance and implementation of the Convention.

**Annex**

**Assessment by Performance Indicator**

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| **38C/5 Performance Indicator 1** | **Governing bodies of the 2003 Convention exercise sound governance thanks to effective organization of their statutory meetings** |

| **Target** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2017** | **Likelihood that target will be attained** |
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| * Decisions providing strategic guidance and/or financial support for the implementation of the Convention taken in a dozen statutory meetings. * 100 safeguarding plans for intangible cultural heritage, including indigenous and endangered languages, developed and/or implemented by Member States. * 30 International Assistance requests submitted and 5 effectively implemented by Member States; 65 nominations submitted by Member States and processed, including one good safeguarding practice promoted and disseminated. | * 15 statutory meetings held with decisions providing strategic guidance and/or financial support for the implementation of the Convention: * one General Assembly (30 May to 1 June 2016); * one Intergovernmental Committee (28 November to 2 December 2016); * five meetings of the Evaluation Body (March 2016, June 2016, September 2016, March 2017 and June 2017); * three face-to-face meetings of the Bureau of the Committee (June 2016, October 2016 and May 2017); * four electronic consultations of the Bureau of the Committee (March to April 2016, June 2016, February to March 2017 and May 2017); * One open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting (Chengdu, 11 to 13 June 2017). * Plans for the use of the resources of the Fund adopted; Operational Directives (OD) revised concerning the increase in the ceiling for International Assistance (IA) to be examined by the Bureau; a new OD chapter adopted on the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage and sustainable development at the national level. * 87 nominations, 11 GSP proposals, and 22 IA requests processed, each including a safeguarding plan (2016 to 2017 cycle). * 19 IA requests processed and analysed and 13 recommendations presented to the Bureau and approved (11.COM BUR 1-3 and 12.COM BUR 1 & 2); 9 effectively implemented by Member States and 15 still under implementation. * [New monitoring interface](http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/submissions-and-deadlines-00861) launched concerning periodic reporting, allowing all stakeholders to review the reports submitted, consult the future submission schedules and search by mechanism, status and country. | High |

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| **38C/5 Performance Indicator 2** | **Number of supported Member States utilizing strengthened human and institutional resources for intangible cultural heritage and integrating ICH into national policies** |

| **Target** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2017** | **Likelihood that target will be attained** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * Policies developed or revised in 15 States and human and institutional resources strengthened in 25 States. * 20% of UNESCO-trained female cultural professionals contributing to national-level decision-making processes in the field of culture. | * Policies developed or revised in 19 of the 41 States that received policy support under the capacity-building programme. Human and institutional resources strengthened in 40 States that benefitted from comprehensive multi-year projects. In 19 of the States, projects were completed and in 21 they are ongoing. * 45% of UNESCO-trained cultural professionals are female: no data available on their contribution to the decision-making process; mechanism under development. * Facilitators’ network strengthened through the development and dissemination of an audio-visual tutorial on safeguarding plans. * Core curriculum materials updated to reflect the decisions of statutory meetings (20 units; 3 languages). | Medium |

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| **38C/5 Performance Indicator 3** | **Number of periodic reports on implementation of the Convention at national levels submitted by States Parties and examined by the Committee, and number addressing gender issues and describing policies promoting equal access to and participation in cultural life** |

| **Target** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2017** | **Likelihood that target will be attained** |
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| * 30 reports, of which 20 address gender issues. | * 36 reports submitted, of which 10 address gender issues. These are: * 6 periodic reports submitted on the implementation of the Convention at the national level and processed by the Secretariat in preparation for their examination by the Committee at its eleventh session; 1 of them addresses gender issues. * 11 periodic reports submitted on the implementation of the Convention at the national level and processed by the Secretariat in preparation for their examination by the Committee at its twelfth session; 3 of them address gender issues. * 6 periodic reports submitted on elements inscribed on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and processed by the Secretariat in preparation for their examination by the Committee at its eleventh session; 3 of them address gender issues. * 13 periodic reports submitted on elements inscribed on the Urgent Safeguarding List and processed by the Secretariat in preparation for their examination by the Committee at its twelfth session; 3 of them address gender issues. | Medium |

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| **38C/5 Performance Indicator 4** | **Number of States Parties to the Convention increased** |

| **Target** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2017** | **Likelihood that target will be attained** |
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| * 5 new ratifications, including 2 from Africa. | * 10 new ratifications (Cabo Verde, Cook Islands, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Malta, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu), including 4 from Africa. An extension of the territorial application of the Convention made by the Netherlands for Curaçao. | High |

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| **38C/5 Performance Indicator 5** | **Number of organizations within and outside the United Nations system, civil society, and the private sector contributing to programme delivery** |

| **Target** | **Assessment of progress: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2017** | **Likelihood that target will be attained** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * 8 NGOs accredited; 20 NGOs renewed; 4 category 2 centres fully contributing to supporting UNESCO’s programme for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. | * Facilitated the accreditation of 24 NGOs by the sixth session of the General Assembly and the renewal of 59 accredited NGOs. * 4 category 2 centres assessed as having the potential to contribute to the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. | High |